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NEW MEXICO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
State College, New Mexico

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

5-5-50
NO. 385

TRIGG STRESSES CROP-ADJUSTMENT NEED — Production which is not needed costs more than money, Ralph S. Trigg, Administrator, Production and Marketing Administration, told a national farm group recently. Mr. Trigg was referring to the further cost in soil fertility, which he said we cannot afford to waste.

"We have made a good deal of progress on the conservation front," Mr. Trigg pointed out, "even though the abnormal demands of war and post-war years put a heavy drain on the land in many regions. We must now do everything we can to regain lost ground and to guard our basic resources for the future."

"Acres which are freed for other uses under production-adjustment programs offer a fine opportunity for conservation work. It is far better to use crop land for sound conservation than to use it wastefully for the production of a crop that is not needed or wanted in the market place..."

"The Agricultural Conservation Program is geared to give farmers maximum help, and it is available in all areas. It is a matter of simple common sense for farmers to take full advantage of it. We have been lucky for quite a while now, but recent reports of dust storms in the Southwest are a renewed warning that the conservation job can never safely be neglected."

Mr. Trigg also suggested that critics of farm programs should start from a sound basis of understanding, and that those interested in agriculture — and national — welfare should be on guard against those who might wish to tear down the whole farm program on the excuse that this could eliminate a few weaknesses.

"Our objective must be a sound middle-ground," Mr. Trigg said, "avoiding wasteful surpluses, but with production adequate to meet all effective demand and with leeway for expanded markets... If we make production adjustment work — and have the necessary tools and provisions to see that it does work effectively over a period of years — then there is no reason why sound price support cannot be continued indefinitely as a constructive force for the good of the entire industry."

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HIGH PENALTY ON EXCESS COTTON - The penalty rate for cotton produced in excess of farm marketing quotas in 1950 will be 50 percent of the parity price as of June 15, 1950, _____ chairman of the county PMA committee, said today. The parity price on March 15 was 30.01 cents per pound.

"We would like to bring to the attention of all cotton growers that the penalty may be around 15 cents a pound," says the chairman. "This compares with a penalty of 7 to 8 cents a pound under previous quota programs. The 15 cent penalty is based on the assumption that the parity price on June 15 will be not far different from the 30.01 cents per pound which it was on March 15, 1950."

Cotton subject to penalty is designated as the "farm marketing excess" of cotton. It will be determined by multiplying the farm normal cotton yield by the acreage planted to cotton in excess of the allotment.

In cases where the farmer establishes that the actual cotton yield per acre is less than the normal yield, the farm marketing excess will be reduced to the amount by which the total production exceeds the normal yield times the farm cotton acreage allotment.

Until the penalty on the farm marketing excess is paid, all cotton produced on a farm and marketed is subject to penalty, and a lien on the entire crop of cotton produced on the farm will be in effect in favor of the United States, the chairman explains. The penalty must be paid before a marketing card can be issued to a farm. In addition, the farmer who knowingly overplants the farm cotton allotment will be ineligible for cotton price support and also for any agricultural conservation payment for the farm.

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JEFFERSON AND CONSERVATION - In a letter to President George Washington, in 1793, Thomas Jefferson wrote:

The highlands, where I live, have been cultivated about sixty years. The culture was tobacco and Indian corn as long as they would bring enough to pay the labor. Then they were turned out. After four or five years rest they would bring

good corn again, and in double that time perhaps good tobacco. Then they would be exhausted by a second series of tobacco and corn."

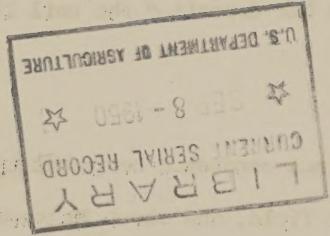
According to _____, chairman of the _____ County PMA Committee, this same problem besets farmers today. But it is being met with good conservation practices. The Agricultural Conservation Program with assistance on a share-the-cost basis, is doing much to help farmers keep their land productive.

Another problem, still too common now, also troubled Jefferson. In a letter written in 1810 he tells of a violent storm in which 3 inches of rain fell in a single hour. He goes on to say:

"Every hollow of every hill presented a torrent which swept everything before it. I have never seen the fields so much injured. Mr. Randolph's farm is the only one which has not suffered; his horizontal furrows arrested the water at every stop till it was absorbed, or at least had deposited the soil it had taken up."

In 1817 he wrote:

"Our practice is ... to lay off guide lines conducted horizontally around the hill or valley from end to the other of the field, and about 30 yards apart. The steps of the level on the ground are marked by a stroke of the hoe, and immediately followed by a plough ... We generally level a field the year it is put into Indian corn laying it into beds 6 feet wide, with a large water furrow between the beds, until all the fields have been once leveled. The intermediate furrows are run by the eye of the ploughman governed by these guide lines."



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May 19, 1950

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'51 WHEAT QUESTIONS COMING UP - Important questions affecting the growing and marketing of the next wheat crop must be decided within the next few weeks, W. Leslie Martin, Chairman of the State Production and Marketing Committee, said today. Notice has already been given that the Secretary of Agriculture is preparing to determine whether marketing quotas are required to be proclaimed for the 1951 wheat crop, to determine and proclaim the national wheat acreage allotment, and to apportion the allotment among States, counties, and farms.

Mr. Martin explained that the decision on marketing quotas must be made by July 1, and that the national acreage allotment must be announced by July 15.

As directed by law, marketing quotas on the 1951 wheat crop must be proclaimed if (1) the total supply of wheat for the 1950-51 marketing year exceeds the normal supply by more than 20 percent, or (2) the total supply for the 1949-50 marketing year is not less than the normal supply and the average farm price for wheat for 3 consecutive months of that year does not exceed 66 percent of parity.

"Normal supply" of wheat is the estimated domestic consumption of wheat for the preceding marketing year plus exports during the marketing year for which normal supply is being determined plus 15 percent.

The national acreage allotment must be that acreage which the Secretary determines will, at average yields, produce an amount of wheat which, plus the estimated carryover and imports, will make available a supply equal to a normal year's domestic consumption and exports plus 30 percent.

A total of 72,750,000 acres has been reported seeded for 1950, 14 percent below the record 1949 seedings of 84.9 million acres, and a little below the 1950 national wheat acreage allotment.

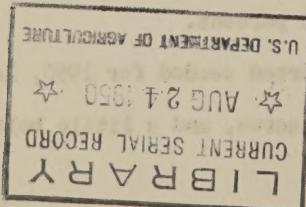
CHECK ACP PRACTICE SPECIFICATIONS - The _____ county PMA has the responsibility of making sure that the \$_____ allocated to _____ county under the 1950 Agricultural Conservation Program is used to obtain the maximum in soil saving, soil building and water conserving practices.

_____, chairman of the county PMA committee, points out that the county committee is charged with the responsibility of protecting the interests of the people who pay the taxes to provide funds for ACP.

The county committee, he explains, uses the best information available in determining conservation standards which must be met in carrying out conservation practices. Prior approval is required for all practices to be sure that farmers understand the requirements before the work is started.

"The assistance provided the individual farmer represents a partnership between that farmer and the rest of the people of the county," says the chairman. "In accepting this assistance the farmer also accepts an obligation to carry out the conservation practices in the interests of those who provide the funds.

"Because assistance to individual farmers has been found to be the most effective and economical way of getting essential conservation work done, Congress provides funds to help farmers carry out needed practices. This places a definite responsibility on both the PMA committee and cooperating farmers to use the available funds for the most needed conservation practices and to carry out the practices according to accepted standards."



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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

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WHEAT FORECAST SMALLEST IN 7 YEARS - Wheat farmers are watching current crop forecasts with more than usual interest, according to W. Leslie Martin, Chairman of the State Production and Marketing Committee. Whether or not marketing quotas are proclaimed for the 1951 wheat crop must be determined by July 1, the Chairman pointed out, and the national wheat acreage allotment is directed by law to be announced by July 15.

As of June 1, prospects were for a total 1950 wheat crop of almost 945 million bushels -- the first crop in 7 years to fall short of a billion bushels. This would be 18 percent less than the 1949 crop and 8 percent below the 10-year 1939-48 average. Prospects for the crop have improved during the past month by about 21 million bushels.

The lower expected wheat production is primarily due to the planting of a smaller acreage and an extensive loss of acreage because of adverse weather and insect pests.

By law, marketing quotas on the 1951 wheat crop must be proclaimed if the total supply of wheat for the next marketing year exceeds the normal supply by more than 20 percent.

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CONSUMERS BENEFIT FROM ALLOTMENT - More and better food for more consumers is one of the benefits resulting from compliance with acreage allotments, says _____, chairman of the _____ county FMA Committee.

He explains that where a farmer seeds within his allotment, he not only is cooperating with his neighbors in protecting farm prices but in the case of food crops he is contributing to better diets for consumers. Thus, the land taken out of the allotment crop is not being used to produce unneeded surpluses but is being used to produce something that is needed.

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This year, he points out, there is enough wheat to meet all the needs of consumers and leave a carryover of around 450 million bushels, but there has been a drop in the consumption of meat as compared with 1947. "If the per capita consumption of meats, especially beef, could be increased by only 10 pounds from the 145 pounds consumed in 1949 back to the 155 pounds consumed in 1947, and if fluid milk consumption could be increased from the 380 pounds per capita of 1949 to the 432 pounds actually consumed in 1945 we would have a ready market for the forage from about 35 million acres."

Acreage allotments, he explains, call for about 31 million acres to be taken out of corn, wheat, cotton, tobacco, peanuts, rice and potatoes.

As the chairman explains, "complying with acreage allotments and shifting to more grass and legumes not only provides a better diet for consumers now, but it builds up plant food reserves in the soil to assure a continued better and more balanced diet for the future."

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DRY WEATHER PROVES WORTH OF STOCKWATER DAMS - (Adapt to local conditions)

The present season has emphasized again the value of stockwater dams, says _____ chairman of the _____ county FMA committee. The dry weather of the past several months has "brought home" to _____ county ranchers the worth of these additional watering places.

Since the Agricultural Conservation Program started in 1936, there have been (number) stockwater dams constructed in _____ county with program assistance, the chairman advises. This assistance, he explains, although covering only about half the cost--in many instances much less--has served to encourage the construction of these stockwater dams.

Such dams spread out over the range, he explains, makes it possible for livestock to graze more of the range and not overgraze any of it. Trailing

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and trampling has been reduced. The result is less soil erosion and greater water conservation. The water held back by the dams means that much less damage from floods and the improved vegetative cover when rains do come also serves to check runoff and erosion.

~~_____~~ calls attention to the stockwater dams on the ranch of ~~_____~~ near ~~_____~~ as an example of how those watering places are contributing to better range management as well as to check erosion and conserve water.

(Add details: number of dams constructed by this rancher, when constructed, what they mean in his ranching operation, how they have helped to check erosion and conserve water. Some papers may use a picture if available.)

